

## A Message from The Chair of Council

Well hasn't 2020 been interesting so far! And I thought 2019 was eventful.

We were blessed to welcome and hear Rev. Scott Stuart preach, on January 16th, a week later than planned because of inclement weather. We enjoyed a couple of services prior to his covenanting service on March 8th. What a delight for us to meet Rev. Stuart's partner, Rev. Catherine Stuart and their son, Ethan, who were both able to participate with him in his covenanting service.

We had a full house for our spaghetti dinner fundraiser in February. Thanks to organizers Jane Donovan and Kim and Kevin Gallant and all their helpful servers and kitchen hands. We enjoyed great food and plenty of fellowship.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to hold a service at Mount Royal since March 8th. Beginning on March 15th, and now for an unspecified period, the church building is closed at the request of Government of New Brunswick Public Health officials. We are all impacted by the necessary efforts to contain the risks associated with the spread of the Covid-19 virus. I want to assure you that the building is not in any way contaminated.

Thanks to Rev. Stuart for his messages of hope and encouragement (and to the technological expertise of Bill Millett), we have been able to offer abbreviated Sunday morning services available for viewing on the church website. Thanks to the musicians who have offered their gifts of music for the on-line services. The password for viewing videos on the church website is mruc -all lower case. Together with Rev. Stuart's mid-week meditations, also on the website, a telephone call tree to be put in place, and other on-lines forums in the works, we are doing our best to stay in contact with you.

Rev. Stuart has invited anyone feeling lonely or anxious to contact him via Facebook, email at minister@mountroualuc.ca or by phone at 506 295-8353.

The church office is closed at this time but please feel free to leave non-urgent messages on the office voicemail (855-5771) or sent an email to the office at mtroyalunitedchurch@nb.aibn.com. Both the phone and the email are checked periodically. And, of course, should you have an urgent pastoral care need, please contact Rev. Stuart by phone.

Unfortunately, even with the building closed, we continue to have expenses; salaries, heat and lights, insurance etc. and givings are down considerably. I recognize that these are very challenging times for most people. If you are able, please consider continuing to make your regular or any amount of offering. All donations would be greatly appreciated given we will be missing Sunday service donations for some time along with fundraisers such as the Memorial Hymn sing, rummage sale, pancake breakfast, grocery gift card sale and the Easter and perhaps Anniversary special offerings.

2.

As you are able, you can make your donations by cheque mailed to the church at 106 Mount Royal Blvd, Moncton, NB E1E 2V2; through Pre- Authorized Remittance direct from your bank account (the authorization form will soon be available on the website and may be printed and returned to the church office with a void cheque or may be requested through the office. You will soon be able to use one of several on-line methods for making payments to the church. Please check the website for details.

I have enclosed an envelope for a special Easter offering and would invite you to put it in another envelope and mail your very appreciated donation to the church, please.

As always, if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 855-7008.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon. Please heed the requests of Public Health Authorities and be well.

Sincerely,

Susan Fowler  
Chair, Church Council